(b) if so, the details of existing and new guidelines;

(c) whether the existing guidelines are being followed by the officials; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The existing guidelines for briefing media are given in the statement attached.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

According to the Manual on Office Procedure; Communication of information to the press

(1) Official information to the press and other news media, i.e., radio and television, will normally be communicated through the Press Information Bureau.

(2) Only Ministers, Secretaries and other officers specially authorised in this behalf may give information or be accessible to the representatives of the press. Any other official, if approached by a representative of the press, will direct him to the Press Information Bureau.

(3) Whenever it is proposed to release an official information to the press, or to hold a press conference or press briefing, or to give publicity to an official report, resolution or any other publication, the department concerned will consult the accredited Information Officer in advance.

Non-Availability of Train

2464. SHRI VIJAY PATEL :
SHRI B.K. GADHVI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of representations have been made to his Ministry for the introduction of a shuttle train with MST coach facility leaving Ahmedabad in the morning and Palanpur in the evening;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(c) the other alternative arrangements railways propose to make to mitigate the difficulties of daily passengers from Ahmedabad to Palanpur?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Some representations have been received regarding starting of a train in the morning from Ahmedabad to Palanpur.

(b) and (c) After conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad route, 9105/9106 Delhi-Ahmedabad Mail, 9653/9654 Ahmedabad-Ajmer Fast Passenger and 2915/2916 Ashram Express have been introduced from 3.5. 97, 11.5.97 and 1.8.97 respectively serving Ahmedabad and Palanpur.

It is also proposed to introduce a shuttle DMU train between Ahmedabad and Abu Road serving Palanpur during 1997-98.

A morning shuttle between Ahmedabad and Palanpur is not proposed at present due to operational and resource constraints.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of Scheduled Tribes

2465. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise number of posts of scheduled tribes lying vacant in his Ministry/Departments;

(b) whether the persons other than are working on these posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are taking any steps to fill up the entire backlog; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) 3 posts of Senior Scientific Officer Grand-II, reserved for Scheduled Tribes, are vacant in the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Transmission Capacity of Akashwani Kendra

2466. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the transmission capacity of Akashwani Kendras of Rajkot and Porbandar of Gujarat;